



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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### **SECRETARY HERZFELDER ANNOUNCES \$500,000 GRANT FOR CONSERVATION LAND PURCHASE IN QUINCY**

#### ***Acquisition will Protect Sensitive Marina Bay Open Space***

Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder today announced a \$500,000 grant to assist the City of Quincy in acquiring 11.22 sensitive acres at Marina Bay. The tract of land is a vulnerable piece of open space that is comprised primarily of wetlands and flanked by an area that has undergone rapid development in recent years. These funds are being distributed under the state's Self-Help Program which is administered by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and funded through the federal Land & Water Conservation Grant Program.

"These acres at Marina Bay offer important wildlife habitat and protection for key water supplies," said Secretary Herzfelder. "This acquisition is made possible by a group of partners who care deeply about this land's environmental significance and it represents smart growth that respects the proper balance between conservation and sound development."

The Marina Bay property being acquired is within a state-designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern because the wetlands that comprise the site depend on the tidal flow from the Neponset River estuary area. The land abuts the Squantum Marshes and its delicate ecosystem, making its preservation critical given rapid adjacent development.

"On behalf of the citizens of Quincy, I want to thank Secretary Herzfelder and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs for helping us protect what has long been considered the most valuable open space parcel in Quincy," said Quincy Mayor William Phelan. "We can finally state without hesitation that this beautiful tract of land will be enjoyed in perpetuity by the public in its natural state."

The parcel of land being acquired was part of the former Lot 23 Bird Sanctuary. According to the Commonwealth Division of Fish & Game, the site is still a feeding, roosting or migration stopover point for a number of species of birds including the Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Osprey, Laughing Gull, Least Tern, and Snowy Owl. The Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, and Least Tern are classified as rare species by Massachusetts.

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